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ASSOCIATION OF
AMERICAN RAILROADS
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

WASHINGTON, March 12, 1981 -- Freight traffic on major U.S. railroads during the week ended March 7 totaled an estimated 19.2 billion ton-miles, 2.7 percent above the corresponding week a year ago, the Association of American Railroads reported today.

Cumulative volume for the first 10 weeks of 1981 was an estimated 177.6 billion ton-miles, 1.4 percent higher than the comparable period of last year.

Carloadings in the week ended March 7 totaled 457,920 cars, 3.8 percent over 1980, but 1.2 percent lower than the preceding week of this year. Compared with last year, loadings were up 8.1 percent in the East, and 8.1 percent in the South, but down 1.3 percent in the West. Compared with the corresponding week of 1980, 15 of the 21 commodity groups were down. However, coal loadings totaled 130,847, the highest in nearly 24 years and 30.7 percent over 1980. Grain traffic was up 12.0 percent from last year. Fourteen of the 21 groups were down from the preceding week of this year.

Piggyback

The AAR also reported that piggyback freight traffic on major railroads during the week ended February 28 totaled 35,103 cars, up 1.2 percent from the corresponding week of 1980, and 63,776 trailers and/or containers, virtually the same as last year.

The cumulative volume of TOFC/COFC traffic for the first 9 weeeks of the year was 276,800 cars, 6.8 percent lower than last year, and 500,803 trailers and/or containers, down 6.8 percent.

(more)

Following are carloadings of major railroads, by commodity groups, for the week ended 3/7/81:

	Loadings in Week ended March 7, 1981		Change from Corresponding Week 1980			Change from Preceding Week		
	Cars		Cars	Percent		Cars	Percent	
Grain	33,314	I	3,576	12.0	I	3,395	11.3	
Other farm products	4,403	I	529	13.7	D	280	6.0	
Metallic ores	26,718	I	1,873	7.5	I	707	2.7	
Coal	130,847	I	30,721	30.7	I	325	0.2	
Crushed stone, gravel and sand	11,307	D	604	5.1	I	102	1.0	
Nonmetallic minerals	13,172	D	471	3.5	D	258	1.9	
Grain mill products	15,279	D	2,684	14.9	D	1,104	6.7	
Food and kindred products	16,410	D	2,766	14.4	D	1,039	6.0	
Primary forest products	19,586	I	527	2.8	D	507	2.5	
Lumber and wood products except furniture	8,806	D	1,404	13.8	D	742	7.8	
Pulp, paper and allied products	20,881	D	720	3.3	D	607	2.8	
Chemicals and allied products	28,380	D	939	3.2	D	1,237	4.2	
Petroleum products	5,038	D	1,035	17.0	D	393	7.2	
Stone, clay and glass products	14,619	D	526	3.5	I	183	1.3	
Coke	6,183	D	589	8.7	D	324	5.0	
Metals and products	17,337	D	1,303	7.0	D	1,572	8.3	
Motor vehicles and equipment	17,702	D	3,061	14.7	D	356	2.0	
Waste and scrap materials	13,100	D	566	4.1	I	36	0.3	
Forwarder and shipper association traffic	11,559	D	902	7.2	D	184	1.6	
All other carloads	42,816	D	2,910	6.4	D	1,835	4.1	
LCL traffic	463	I	213	85.2	I	163	54.3	
Total Cars Loaded	457,920	I	16,959	3.8	D	5,527	1.2	
Corresponding week of 1980	440,961							

	1981	1980	% Change	
Total Cars Loaded (10 weeks)	4,256,847	4,355,194	D	2.3
Estimated revenue ton-miles (in billions):				
9 Weeks cumulative	158.4	156.4	I	1.3
Week ended March 7	19.2	18.7	I	2.7
10 weeks cumulative	177.6	175.1	I	1.4

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